

[22 March, 2001]

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implementation of uniform law across the country by lifting the existing ban imposed on rickshaw pulling in some parts of the country; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) There is no specific proposal under consideration of the Government at present for providing three wheelers on easy instalments to rickshaw pullers all over the country. Pulling of rickshaws in Municipal areas is regulated by respective Municipal Corporations and local Authorities of various State Governments, keeping in view the prevailing situation of the areas concerned.

Welfare of child labourers

2957. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policies and programmes adopted by Government for welfare of the child labourers have not yielded the desired results; and

(b) if not, how far these programmes have helped the child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and scheme of Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisation. 96 NCLPs have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic States for the rehabilitation of about 2.00 lakh children withdrawn from work. The Scheme of NCLPs envisages mainstreaming of children into formal schools within a maximum period of 3 years. As per information received from 31 NCLPs about 23,000 children have been mainstreamed into formal schools so far. Awareness generation activities to sensitise

parents, employers, children etc. against the evils of child labour are also being taken up by the Project Societies at the District level. Under the Scheme of Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Governments, action oriented projects are taken up for the benefit of working children. Over 50 projects are under implementation under the scheme.

Growth in unemployment

2958. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the growth in unemployment has been accelerated by the disinvestment in many PSUs;
- (b) whether employment generation has caught up with the targeted figures during the last year;
- (c) whether a general recession in industrial sector coupled with closure of SSI units, in the face of cheap imports and competition from multinationals have also contributed to the swelling ranks of the unemployed; and
- (d) whether Government would formulate a policy by which a part of the disinvestment proceeds are ploughed back to employment generating ventures including core industries and infrastructural projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) As per the estimates obtained from the labour force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 the total employment has gone up. Employment in small scale sector has also shown an increasing trend during 1990-91 to 1999-2000.

According to available information, no retrenchment has taken place so far in any Central PSUs due to disinvestment.

It was clearly stated in the Budget speech for the year 2000-2001